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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/596,871

06/28/2006

Nynke A.M. Verhaegh

GB040008

1727

24737

7590

10/29/2007

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS

P.O. BOX 3001

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

KIANNI, KAVEH C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2883

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/29/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/596,871

Applicant(s)

VERHAEGH ET AL.

Examiner

Kianni C. Kaveh

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Group I) claims 1-33 are directed to wherein the direction of the applied field can be changed from at least a first non-zero field distribution to at least a second non-zero field distribution, different from the first field distribution, by modifying the voltages of the electrodes, and wherein the direction of the first field distribution is other than opposite to that of the second field distribution,

Group II) claim 34 is directed to wherein the direction of the first and second field distribution in use are perpendicular causing the suspended particles subject to the first and second field distribution to only have one degree of freedom

Group I is directed to different species/subspecies in which if the applicant chooses this group then:

A) The applicant need to choose one of either IA or IB or IC or ID in which claim 1 is generic to all

!A) wherein the electrodes (11, 12) are configured such that the first field distribution is generally perpendicular to the support members (2, 3) and the second field distribution is generally aligned with the support members (2,3).

IB) wherein the electrodes are configured to realise at least two electric field distributions wherein one of them is generally perpendicular to the support members (2, 3) and the other one is generally at an oblique angle (7) with respect to the support members (2, 3)

IC) wherein the electrodes are configured to realise at least two electric field distributions wherein one of them is generally perpendicular to the support members (2, 3) and the other one is generally at an oblique angle (7) with respect to the support members (2, 3)

ID) wherein the electrodes are configured to realise at least two electric field distributions wherein one of them is generally aligned with the support members (2, 3) and the other one is generally at an oblique angle (7) with respect to the support members (2, 3)

IE) wherein the electrode arrangement (11, 12) includes a pair of electrodes (11a, 12a) comprising a first electrode (11a) on the first support member (2) and a second electrode (12a) on the second support member (3) and the first and second electrodes can be addressed such that the first field distribution is applied between the first and the second electrodes

B) The applicant also need to choose one of either Ia or Ib or Ic or Id in which claim 11 is generic to all the subspecies

Ia) wherein the arrangement of at least the first pair of electrodes is operable to align the particles (4) in dependence on the first field distribution perpendicular to the support members (2, 3) such that the cell can be switched to a transmissive mode.

lb) wherein the arrangement of the first and second pairs of electrodes (11a, 12a, 11a, 12b) are operable to align the particles (4) in dependence on the second field distribution aligned with the support members (2, 3) such that the cell can be switched into a non-transmissive mode.

lc) wherein a third pair of electrodes (11c, 12c) is arranged adjacent and in line with the first and second pair of electrodes (11a, 12a, 11b, 12b) on the first and second support members (2, 3).

ld) wherein the first and second pair of electrodes (11a, 12a, 11b, 12b) are arranged in a first row (R1) of electrodes and the cell comprises a second row (R2) of electrodes such that a matrix of four electrodes (11a, 12a, 11b, 12b) are formed on each of the support members

le) driving electronics to change the charge of the electrodes (11, 12) on the first and second support member (2, 3) in order to switch the orientation of the suspended particles (4)

The species are independent or distinct because each of the above group inventions, as described above, has limitation(s) that is directed toward an invention that would require a different search than that of other group inventions and because each of the above species defining an invention that is distinct from that of the other and requiring a different search.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic to claims 1-32.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

A telephone call was made to applicant on 10/16/07 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of

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record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

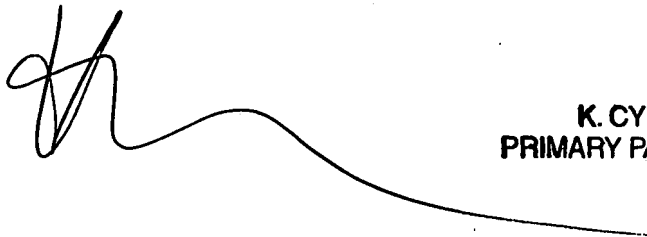
Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kianni C. Kaveh whose telephone number is 571-272-2417. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-19:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on 571-272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

October 24, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

**K. CYRUS KIANNI
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER**